

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed November 13, 2007 has been received and reviewed. This amendment is directed toward that Office.

Claims 1-16 and 18-72 were pending in the application. Claims 69-71 were allowed.

Claims 39, 40, and 72 (Group II) and 42 and 43 (Group III) were withdrawn by the Examiner and Applicant was deemed to have elected claims 1-16, 18-38, 41, and 44-71 (Group I).

The Examiner rejected claim 23 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Coney in view of Miura. Claim 23 is dependent on claim 20. The Examiner states that claim 20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant's attorney and the Examiner conducted a telephonic conference on January 24, 2008 during which it was agreed that claim 23 should not have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a). Therefore, Applicant has not cancelled claim 23.

The Examiner also rejected claims 1-4 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Coney (RE37603) in view of Miura (2002/0050345) and claim 44 as being unpatentable over Cottle in view of Miura. The Examiner states that Miura teaches that multi-stage compressors in claims 1-4 and 44 are known and it would have been obvious to form the compressor compressors of Coney and Cottle as taught by Miura. However, since the present application is a divisional of Irwin (US 6644400), filed October 11, 2001, and Miura was published May 2, 2002, Applicant could not have used the then-unpublished teachings of Miura.

Claims 1-4 and 44 have been cancelled.

The Examiner objected to claims 5-16, 18-22, 24-38, 41, and 45-68 as they were dependent on a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. This objection would also be applicable to claim 23.

Claim 8 has been cancelled. Claims 45, 47 and 48 have been cancelled and rewritten as independent claims 73-75 incorporating all the limitations of cancelled claim

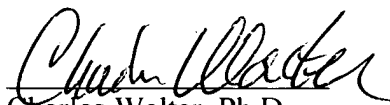
44. The remaining claims have been amended to depend directly or indirectly on claims 73 - 75, and to correct scribal errors.

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that the present claims 5-16, 18-38, 41, 45-68, and 73-75 are now allowable. Accordingly Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection, allow the claims, and allow this case to proceed to issue.

If any issues remain, the resolution of which may be resolved through a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's attorney at the number listed below.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for his helpful comments.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charles Walter".

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